

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 STR-08 NSC-10 DRC-01 /192 W

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R 301912Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD STUDY OF TRENDS IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF
MAJOR AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES

REF: STATE 13401

1. ON JAN 28 WE PRESENTED REFTEL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF WIDER TERMS OF REFERENCE IN THE OECD AGRICULTURAL STUDY TO HIJZEN, COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, PIZZUTI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND STOKHOVITCH, DIRECTOR FOR OECD AFFAIRS. (THESE LAST TWO ARE THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS MOST DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE MEMBER STATES TO GO ALONG WITH THE STUDY.) WE ALSO SEPARATELY INFORMED WIJNMALEN, LARDINOIS' CHEF DE CABINET.

2. HIJZEN SAID THAT THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS WOULD NEED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER INTERNALLY BEFORE GIVING A FINAL RESPONSE TO OUR MESSAGE. HOWEVER, HE DID PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF HIS OWN CURRENT THINKING. HE FELT THERE WAS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE EC POSITION. THE EC HAD NOT INTENDED TO INSIST THAT THE STUDY BE DONE SOLELY ON THE ASSUMPTION OF A CONTINUATION OF EXISTING PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN AGRICULTURE.

3. HIJZEN SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD NOT WISHED TO PROHIBIT THE STUDY FROM EXAMINING POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL SITUATION SO LONG AS THESE CHANGES WERE OF A SORT THAT ECONOMISTS COULD HANDLE, I.E., CHANGES IN PRICES AND PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, HE WAS VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO ANY STUDY WHICH WOULD TURN THE OECD SECRETARIAT LOOSE TO MAKE ALL KINDS OF HYPOTHESES ABOUT CHANGES IN POLICY. HE CITED ONE CONCRETE EXAMPLE: HE THOUGHT THAT THE STUDY COULD EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF A DECREASE IN THE CATCH OF PERUVIAN ANCHOVIES IF IT SEEMED REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE SUPPLY OF FISH MIGHT GIVE OUT. HE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO INCLUDE IN THE STUDY ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT HOW THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT CHANGE ITS FISHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY. HIJZEN ALSO SAID THAT THE EC WOULD OPPOSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT CHANGES IN THE CAP UNLESS THESE HAVE BEEN DEFINITELY DECIDED, I.E., THE STUDY SHOULD NOT INCLUDE ASSUMPTIONS BASED ON COMMISSION PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO HIJZEN'S PERSONAL REMARKS, WE REITERATED CERTAIN POINTS IN THE REFTEL AND SAID THAT

WE HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND THE WELL-KNOWN SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE CAP. BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, IT SEEMED TO US THAT THE OECD SECRETARIAT MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO DO A USEFUL STUDY -- ONE THAT CAN HELP THE COMMUNITY AND THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS IN A POLICY CONTEXT AND NOT CONSTITUTE A KIND OF ACADEMIC ANALYSIS. WE ALSO URGED THAT THE MATTER BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HIJZEN SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST AND HOPED TO HAVE SOME OFFICIAL REACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.GREENWALD

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